

RIVERHAVEN FARM

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An eagerness to help provide for the surrounding community is what makes Riverhaven Farm a KY EXCEL Farm success!



Ron and Linda McMaine in front of the high tunnel used to grow their produce.

Ron and Linda McMaine purchased the Salvisa, KY land that they have transformed into Riverhaven Farm in 1995. It took them two years before they were ready to farm the 80-acre plot that serves mostly as hay production, which the McMaines use and sell, along with a variety of fruits and vegetables.

The McMaines hope to pass on the knowledge they've gained and help future farmers succeed. They do this by serving as environmental stewards and maintaining an active presence in their local community.

Providing for the Community

Ron and Linda have learned a lot through the years in their farming practices. Initially, they helped with the Bluegrass Farmers' Market in order to sell the crops that they grew on their farm. Currently, they produce enough to supply the Bluegrass and Lawrenceburg Farmers' Markets, as well as allow them to participate in an 18-member Community Supported Agriculture program. According to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, a Community Supported Agriculture program, or CSA, is "a movement in which a community of individuals share both the bounty and the risk

of a farm or group of farms". Members pay farmers in advance for a share of the crops they produce the next season or year, depending on the agreement. Programs like this have given farmers more financial security by establishing and distributing to a consistent consumer base.

Getting fresh food out to the public is a cause that the McMaines highly value. The McMaines partner with many local programs that support this cause. One such program they were instrumental in bringing to the Farmers' Market is the Women Infants and Children Farmers' Market Nutrition Program or FMNP. This federally funded program helps low-income women who are pregnant and/or have small children up to 5 years old use vouchers to purchase fresh produce from local farms.

Riverhaven Farm also produces fresh food that is distributed to organizations that combat food deserts in the area. The United States Department of Agriculture states that a food desert is an area of the country where fresh fruit, vegetables, and other healthful whole foods are scarce or unavailable. Mostly due to a lack of grocery



stores, farmers markets and healthy food providers, they are also demographically impoverished places.

Fun in Variety

Riverhaven Farm has an acre dedicated to producing a variety of berries and vegetables. They produce the usual selection of tomatoes, zucchini, raspberries, peppers and cucumbers. However, over the years they have developed relationships with a few customers that have an exotic or rare taste for unusual produce. This includes to name a few; white cucumbers, edamame, and pumpkin leaves. Pumpkin leaves are considered an African delicacy. Most of the produce grown on this acre plot are self-pollinating, while the more heat tolerant and non-pollinating varieties are grown in a high

tunnel. The McMaines love growing and harvesting in creative ways, they say its what makes farming fun.

Environmental Stewards

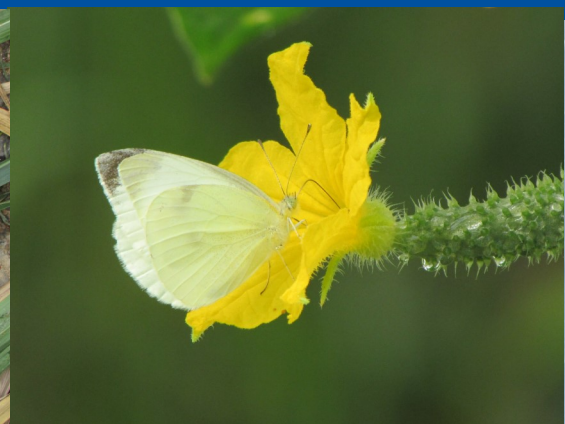
Riverhaven Farm received the Kentucky Department of Agriculture's "Kentucky Proud" designation and funding. This allowed them to create the high tunnels for their crops as well as other projects to improve production.

The McMaines' latest KY EXCEL project involved working with the University of Kentucky's entomology program for biological pest and insect control research in high tunnels. This research focuses on beneficial insects to help control aphids, thrips and whiteflies. Beneficial insects are introduced into the high tunnels to reduce these pest populations and success is measured through the use of special sticky paper. These traps will give a population count of pests in the most highly hit areas of the high tunnel. Using beneficial insects to control pests reduces the need for pesticide chemical application on the plants that are grown there.

(Below) Riverhaven Farm is part of a study through the University of Kentucky that is using beneficial insects to control pests. Caterpillars such as the one pictured can destroy crops.



By participating in this research study, the McMaines are helping develop new sustainable farming practices that also help the environment. This knowledge can then be shared with other farmers in the community increasing the potential for greater environmental and sustainable farming practices. Riverhaven Farm is a great example of how KY EXCEL Farm members are making a difference every day!



(Left) Pest populations are counted using sticky paper. (Center) Cards filled with Lacewing eggs are released into the area to allow beneficial insect populations to grow. (Right) Moths can eat and destroy the crops, prompting intervention.